



United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:
1792/9214 (NV024.11)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District has recently finalized the Determination for NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for the Unionville Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fuelbreak Project. The DNA concluded that additional actions associated with implementation of the proposed project would have no additional expected environmental impacts. These impacts were analyzed in detail in the Winnemucca WUI Treatment Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Montana Mountains Cooperative Fuels Treatment Project EA. Authorization of fuels projects is subject to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and associated BLM regulations 43CFR 5003.1(b).

The DNA analyzed hazardous fuels reduction treatments around the community of Unionville, Nevada. Unionville is a nationally recognized "Community-at-Risk" due to its proximity to public lands where conditions are conducive for large wildfires and for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildfire event. The comprehensive NEPA analysis of the proposed action provided for public participation through a public scoping period, scoping meetings and a 30 day review of the Preliminary EA. This disclosure occurred with local Tribes, interested publics and stakeholders. In addition, two townhall meetings were held in Unionville with community members.

The action and all recommended mitigation measures that have been selected are:

1. The North-side Fuelbreak is currently 3.4 miles in length, 50 feet wide and occupies 10 acres. This fuelbreak will be expanded to 100 feet in width and will occupy 20.5 acres.
2. The South-side Fuelbreak will be 3.5 miles in length, 100 feet wide and will occupy 20.6 acres.

Total 41.3 acres

Most of the treatment area is covered with grass and other herbaceous plants. However, some areas have sagebrush cover which will need to be removed. The brush will be removed by hand

(e.g., chainsaw, Pulaski, etc.). Grass growing within the fuelbreak, either native perennials or non-native annuals, will be cut using weed-eaters or an ATV and mower. Maintenance will occur on an annual basis after major vegetative growth occurs in late spring or early summer (e.g., late May or early June). For use of any non-federal work force, a BLM project inspector will be required to inspect work and a wildlife biologist or their approved representative will be required to survey for migratory bird nests prior to or during construction or maintenance activities.

This decision is also subject to and requires the following seven features, which were analyzed in the Referenced EAs:

1. All treatments identified will be in accordance with the Instruction Memorandums WO-IM-2012-043 Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures and WO-IM-2010-149 Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management. Fuels Management Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Sage-Grouse Conservation.
2. For any new fuelbreak construction activities that are performed during the migratory bird breeding season (March 1 – August 31), a migratory bird nesting survey will be conducted by a wildlife biologist or their approved representative in potential habitat areas no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active nests are located, a minimum 260 feet protective buffer would be established or activities delayed until the birds have completed nesting and brood-rearing activities. Once the fuelbreak has been established and for activities during the migratory bird breeding season, work by federal hand crews will not require a survey by a biologist. However, federal crews will be required to visually inspect the project area for any nests as they work and a buffer will be implemented around the nest if found. For any maintenance activities that utilize mechanized equipment, a migratory bird nesting survey will be conducted in potential habitat areas no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance.
3. In accordance with state law, noxious weeds will be treated upon discovery. Survey and control of noxious weeds will occur during maintenance activities for fuelbreaks. Weed locations will be reported to invasive weeds specialist.
4. A 10-foot buffer will be implemented around springs and other perennial water sources (see Map). Brush and grass will not be removed in these areas.
5. All historic properties (i.e., archaeological sites listed unevaluated or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places) will be avoided during project implementation. Avoidance buffers of at least 30 meters from National Register sites will be observed during project implementation.
6. Any unanticipated archeological discovery on BLM lands will be reported to a BLM archeologist and work in the immediate vicinity will stop until the archeologist is consulted.

7. If any significant paleontological resources are found during operations, impacts would be mitigated through avoidance and/or data recovery. Any unanticipated vertebrate fossil discovery on BLM lands will be reported immediately to the Project Archaeologist.

The Full Force and Effect Final Decision which implements actions analyzed in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy can be downloaded at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mark Williams, project lead, at 775-623-1748.

Sincerely,

S\Vic Lozano

Vic Lozano
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office